
Minutes
Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns
March 5, 2015

Minutes of the MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON DISABILITY CONCERNS held on Thursday, March 5, 2015, 6:30 P.M. at the Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Avenue, Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

MEMBERS Present:

Chair Robert Kizere
Vice Chair Irene Mochel
Martha Ashburn
Paul Bennewitz
Rachel Phillips - Present at 7 p.m.
Tom Ringhofer
Ben Campbell

MEMBERS Absent:

Sarah Kader, Excused
Diane Moran, Excused

Guests Present:

Diversity Staff Present:

Michele Stokes, ADA Compliance Specialist

Chair Kizere called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M.

Public Appearances

No members of the public requested to speak.

Agenda Item 1 - Consideration of Minutes: MCDC – February 5, 2015 Minutes

The February 5, 2015 MCDC Minutes were APPROVED, with amendment to correct typos on pages 4 and 5. Motion: **Commissioner Ringhofer**. Motion was seconded by **Commissioner Campbell**. Motion carried.

Agenda Item 2 – Alternate meeting Location Discussion – Chair Robert Kizere

An acceptable location for CDC meetings would include: accessible parking, short distance from parking lot and bus stop, accessible restrooms, sound integrity, teleconference capacity and AV projection equipment availability. The Museum's access is less than optimal. There also are additional expenses to the City for security and utilities at the Museum.

Staff inquired as to availability of the Library Board Room for the 1st Monday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. It is available.

Discussion led by **Commissioner Bennewitz** noted that not everyone was in attendance and not everyone had a chance to comment on whether the new day of the month would work for them and that on that basis he would oppose a motion. **Chair Kizere** reminded the Commission that Monday had been proposed as an alternative meeting day at the February meeting and he said no commissioner had notified him that they could not attend Monday evening meetings.

Motion: To move meeting date to 1st Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and location to the Library Board Room was made by **Vice Chair Mochel**. Motion was seconded by **Commissioner Campbell**. Motion carried, with opposition by **Commissioner Bennewitz**. **Commissioner Phillips** was absent for the vote.

Agenda Item 3 – 2015 Disability Awards update and meeting dates
By Vice Chair Irene Mochel

The Mayor's Disability Awards event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2015, from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Tempe History Museum. Dr. Terri Hedgpeth has been confirmed as guest speaker.

Vice Chair Mochel discussed day of event assignments for greeters, ramp valet, VIP Valet and hosts and hostesses and asked commissioners to volunteer to assist.

Call for nomination post cards were mailed out this week and more publicity will be posted as soon as possible.

Commissioner **Bennewitz** said he had difficulty locating a link on the web site that listed the descriptions of the awards. Staff will ensure the issue is addressed.

Sponsorship forms will be mailed to commissioners since they were not available at the meeting. The "call to nominate" cards were made available.

Food will be graciously donated by RigaTony's. A request was made for all to seek nominations and sponsors. Event information is posted on-line at www.Tempe.gov/disabilityawards.

Staff Michele Stokes indicated that a grant application requesting \$3,000 for the 2016 award scholarships and disability accommodation was submitted to the Tempe Diablos on January 30, 2015. An interview was granted on February 24, 2015, for further consideration. **Director Rosa Inchausti** and **Staff Michele Stokes** attended the interview to answer questions. A decision should be provided around June 2015.

Agenda Item 4 – Tempe Public Restrooms by Chair Robert Kizere

Commissioner Ashburn read the proposed Council recommendation to the commissioners because a printed copy was not available at the time.

Whereas the Tempe Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns has been tasked to make recommendations to the Tempe Mayor and City Council regarding Disability Issues within the City of Tempe:

The Mayor's Commission on Disability Concerns respectfully submits the following:

The Commission recommends that the City of Tempe, through this Honorable Council, amend the Tempe City Code and other Ordinances as necessary to require:

A sign bearing the International Symbol for Handicap Accessibility be posted on the outer side of each Accessible Toilet Stall Door.

Accessible Toilet Stall as referenced in this recommendation is defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which is currently part of the Tempe City Code and Federal Regulations.

The sign required under the recommendation shall include a raised International Symbol and/or have a Braille explanation in raised characters as part of the sign.

Reasons for the recommendation:

1. Tempe is a model City in its accessibility for persons with special requirements.
2. The City of Tempe is on the forefront of providing accommodations to people with special needs. The City "goes the extra mile" to provide more than the required accommodations.
3. The current ADA and regulations only address signs on the exterior of Toilet Rooms with Accessible Toilet Stalls.
4. The City of Tempe has the authority and jurisdiction to require signage in addition to the signs required by the ADA. The State of California requires a sign on the door to each Toilet Room with Accessible Toilets in addition to the ADA requirement of a sign to the side of the door.

5. Persons who are visually impaired cannot locate the Accessible Toilet Stalls without touching each door to determine which doors are wider than the standard stall door.
6. The size and materials used in the recommended signs should be determined by the Council and the Community Development Department in conjunction with the Commission. The Commission will attempt to find funding or gratis signs which would reduce any costs associated with the additional signage.
7. The Commission is also pleased to note at least one new business in Tempe is already displaying such signage, the Cornerstone AMC Theatre.
8. The additional signs would remind those who do not need special accommodations that ADA Accessible Toilet Stalls are mandated to help those with special needs. The additional sign is not intended to prohibit use of the Accessible Toilet Stalls by people without special needs but as a gentle reminder to be considerate of those persons for whom the stalls were designed.

Discussion included an opposition by **Commissioner Bennewitz** on the basis that the proposal was not provided to the commission in writing and that evaluating it based on a reading was not standard.

Motion: To accept the proposal made by **Vice Chair Mochel** and seconded by **Commissioner Campbell**. Motion carried with opposition by **Commissioner Bennewitz**. **Commissioner Phillips** was absent for the vote.

Agenda Item #5 – White Cane Day by Vice-Chair Mochel

The White Cane Day would be a day to recognize people who are blind on Saturday, October 24, 2015. This would also correspond with Disability month.

Chair Kizere said that in exploring a CDC “sub-committee” it was decided that it would not work for this purpose. A sub-committee of the commission would limit member of the sub-committee to commissioners only and would limit the active participation of volunteers from other agencies and organizations.

Commissioner Ringhofer said that someone should contact Jackie Olson to see if she would be interested in participating.

Chair Kizere, and **Vice Chair Mochel** and **Commissioner Phillips** will try to attend the organizational meeting on Tuesday March 24th at 10 a.m. at the Diversity Department Conference room.

Agenda Item # 6 – Tempe ADA Transition Plan by Commissioner Bennewitz

Commissioner Bennewitz reported that Cole's Vice President/ Chief Strategist Belinda Banger will be submitting their contract for approval by City Council in the next 30 days. If approved, they will be doing an inventory to provide current accessibility data to the City of Tempe. The inventory should start later this year.

Agenda Item # 7 – Commissioner and Staff's Announcements

Commissioner Phillips said she recently attended an ABIL Training at the Capitol on advocating for disability rights. She will be happy to send any information on ABIL activities that would be of help to the commission.

Chair Kizere indicated that he was on the planning committee for Tempe Leadership. A Travel and Tourism ADA training program is scheduled for later in March.

Commissioner Bennewitz said that the ADA Travel Training that is provided for riders of the transit system is exceptional.

Commissioner Ringhofer said he had a bad experience at Culver's Restaurant because there were bicycles blocking the sidewalk outside the west exit. Someone was available to help him go out the east entrance which has a wider sidewalk and curb ramps. Staff said she went over and reviewed the location and talked with two managers. **Chair Kizere** suggested that the door should be signed that it is not an accessible entry or exit. He is going to speak to the manager about signage at the door in question.

Commissioner Phillips said it was official that eventually there will be a Light Rail stop in front of ABIL.

An **ADA Training Conference** by the Pacific Disability and Technical Assistance Center that was to be in the Valley has been cancelled.

The **American Indian Disability Summit** is on March 26, 2015, at the Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Staff will provide CDC materials at the event.

Chair Robert Kizere said he was meeting with Eric Iwersen regarding the 8th Street renovations due to issues that arose when he inspected the site.

Motion to adjourn was made by **Commissioner Ringhofer** and seconded by **Vice Chair Mochel**.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Prepared by: Michele Stokes

Reviewed by: Rosa Inchausti

Rosa Inchausti, Diversity Director